PLANET META in the 27TH CENTURY

BY

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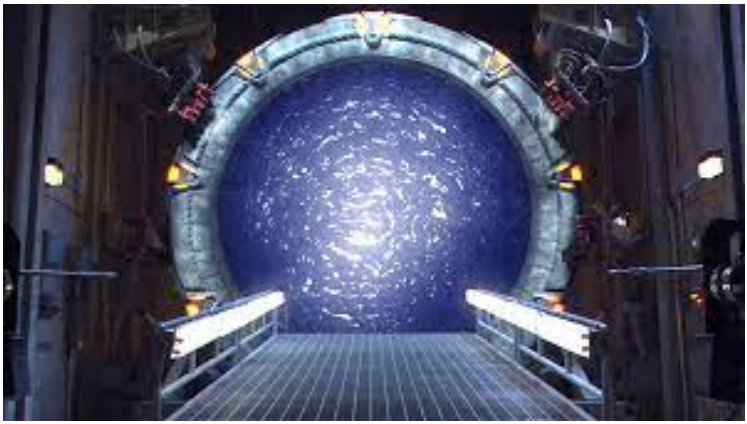
PART the 1 ST

D ateline JANUARY 202 6..... mild mannered reporter Clark Kent steps out of Baxter building in NEW YORK city, and uses a pelican crossing over to iron railings that surround the perim e ter of Central p a rk ,steps through a sand-stone arch towards a bandstand.

He's on his lunch break for a rendezvous with photographer on the DAILY BUGAL, Peter Parker.

When he goes past an ornamental fountain there's a healthy trade of people enjoying the fresh morning atmosphere , and as he walks past a park bench a light wakes him from his reverie .

An unusual sight assails his senses and he steps up onto the stage ,and spies a shimmering Mercury pool in the center of the bandstand . He walks around the shimmering mercury pool, **light reflecting from ripples on its fluid like surface,** and is pulled in , transported through a time - space DIMENSION TUNNEL.



He's ejected from the Mercury pole in the dimension gate onto a dirt road on the outskirts of a town .
Using light from the moon on a puddle on the side of the dirt road he picks himself up and starts walking into the town of PYRAMI D, while checking his phone.
He find s there's no Wi-Fi signal o r network , noticing the sound of crickets, wolves and wild animals he walks towards a high wire fence finding the wire mesh gate and presses an entry buzzer .
A kaldor policeman respon ds:-
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN Why are you lo c ked out after curfew ?
CLARK KENT Just go here.
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN Wait there and I'll send someone .
Clark Kent collapses onto the wire mesh fen c e to get hi s breath back, then hears a squelching slapping sound from pneumatic legs on the other side of the enclosure, and the gates open revealing a V-O-C robot .
v36 Please come with me and I'll take you to the station house for a full induction.

Clark Kent walks through the gates following the V-O-C robot ,it's pneumatic legs making a squelching slapping sound on concrete paving slabs towards single story pre fabricated dwellings with corrugating iron roofs and the jailhouse on the left side of the town , to the right of the high Street.

As they reach town center there's a healthy trade of customers at the saloon and Kent follows v36 onto a wooden terrace his pneumatic legs making a squelching slapping sounds on a concrete floor and through the louvre doors of the jailhouse, a simple breeze block building with a roaring fire in an open pillar and two ADJUDICATORS sat around a pine desk with red check table cloth sitting on Chrome and wicker chairs playing snakes and ladders. SLOAN is in full dress uniform, blood red with silver moon boots and floor length white cape .V36 comes up to the round pine table, adjudicator Sloan stands up to show CLARK to an interview room .

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN You say you're new to PYRAMID. I just need to do an ID check to make sure the company has assigned you here .

CLARK KENK But I've committed no

crime
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN Have you got any ID on you ?
CLARK KENT My driver's licence and wallet was stolen in El Paso. I've never heard of this town .It was a sunny morning in Central park and I fell through a mercury pool by the bandstand .
ADJUDICATOR RAVEN Very amusing, this is a frontier world .
SLOAN Used to be a mining town when it was set up to mine ZITON 7 ore as a power source for SPACE SHIPS .
CLARK KENT I have no identification , what do you mean SPACE SHIPS?
SLOAN Give me your name rank and serial number and I'll run it through our database .
CLARK KENT KENTNCC1701B .
RAVEN There is no galactic citizen with that ID.
CLARK KENT Well in that case I'm not a galactic citizen ,but I am human. What year is this ?
SLOAN This is the year 2636 and you're on the far-side of the galactic federation.
Just that the voice can be heard from a tannoy speaker above the door.
Adjudicator Sloan is generalizing , you're deep within the central zone of the DRACONIAN EMPIRE .
The sliding door reveals a two legged reptilian in ceremonial costume who ambles into the room to stand behind Kent .
JACAR Ever since the space raiders invaded back in the days when this was a mining colony DRACONIANS have had a station here .

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN May I introduce you to ambassador JACAR .
JACAR Even now SPACE RAIDERS are expected to declare war on you humans , and you're all under my protection .
KENT You can fill me in with details later I want to get back to earth.
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN That may be difficult earth, is still quarantined, considered too slow and divided .
JACAR There one prophet CLOISTER says man still makes war with his brother and lets children starve .
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN For that reason planet earth is still quarantined .You'll be assigned a temporary ID ,do not try and leave the town of PYRAMID, some of the wild life is carnivorous.
CLARK KENT There was a blizzard last season in New York in July according to the daily BUGLE newspaper, the longest since God talked to Moses.
KENT follows JACAR and ADJUDICATOR SLOAN out of the interview room past open barred cells with high bared windows and straw mattress and walks to the round pine table with a red check tablecloth and blue and pink napkins, and a black candle in the middle .
SLOAN picks up a deck of cards .
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN You get temporary apartment keys GAMMA zone of PYRAMID, V36 stay with him .
KENT retrieves a card , 7 of DIAMONDS .
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN Older people are in clubs and a female dormitory is hearts. is anyone you'd like to contact ?
RAVEN walk across a persian rug from a supply locker

saying "you'll need this"
KENT TENNIS WHITNER POLISH .
ADJUDICATOR RAVEN YOUR IN A MALE ROOM NEXT TO ME, well away from senior citizens in H-ZONE .
KENT I don't know anyone in the 24th century .
ADJUDICATOR SLOAN I'll send a report to KALDOR, consider yourself our guest and I expect to report from you tomorrow .
KENT follow V36 across Persian FLUE DE LIS carpet onto the wooden verandah and along pine banisters then steps down onto the dirt road joining PYRAMID citizens.The pneumatic legs of the V-O-C robot making a squelching slapping sound on on the uneven surface .
V36 We'll have to go straight to gamma residency .I might be able to help you with your report tomorrow.
KENT Just show me to your INFORMATION TECH SUIT tomorrow .
V36 while I'm recharging I'll jack into our V-O-C network and look up all we have on that area of 21st century earth .
KENT You'd do that?
They continue walking, V36 pneumatic legs making a squelching slapping sound on the dirt road past a wash house with men and women going in wearing navy blue boiler suits taken in at the waist with their sleeves rolled up and coming out in sports casual sweat pants and shirts in a variety of pastel colors .
V36 if you need some refreshments, PARKHILL'S SALOON at the end of the Street.
KENT follows v36 onto the wooden terrace and along pine

bannisters to louvre doors of the saloon and enter
People in sports casual sweat pants and shirts in a variety of pastel colors are watching a magician with a cabinet and an assistant in a salmon pink leotard in the brightly lit restaurant on a raised stage on one side below forest green velvet curtains .
KENT sits on a chrome and wicker chair as a pine table with a red check tablecloth and blue and pink napkins and a black candle in the middle as one of the waitresses comes up.
WAITRESS What can I get you citizen ?
V36 This is Kent. He's new here .
KENT I'll have the soup V36 introduce me to some of these people .
KENT gets off his chrome and wicker chair and over to a group at another round pine table with red check tablecloth ,blue and pink napkins with black candle .
KENT Hello, I'm from earth.
KELVIN I've heard that place, is it still primitive ?
KENT Well it was when I left though we'll soon have a world government .
SANDRA There have been agents from earth .
KELVIN They're one profit CLOISTER left to open a hot dog and donut stand in galactic service stations ,vowing never to go back to earth .
SANDRA It seems humans refused to open a vegan restaurant ,apart from the SQUIRRELS franchise and some independents.
CELVIN He told PRESIDENT VANESSA BELLAMY not to tell earth of the GALACTIC FEDERATION despite having the same ancestors from MAGRATHIA .

SANDRA Who's star went SUPERNOVA at the dawn of time .
KURT Where technicians we work in the new high-protein factories using advanced growing methods to make protein .
CELVIN We're trying to integrate with those DRACONJIANS you see yonder .
KURT points over to the table of large reptiles reclining on sun-loungers with mineral water in a tall glass .
KENT And when you're not making friends with the lizard people ?
SANDRA We get reports throughout the entire galactic federation.
KURT there's now over 10 planets and moons being made for us in closed biodomes to choose from when our tour of duty here is up .
CELVIN I'll be going to Arcadia .
SANDRA We all want to retire to Arcadia if we can .
CELVLIN The PHAROS project finds M-CLASS planets, and lands a welcome pack with one V-O-C who builds a DIMENSION GATE, for colonisation and exploration groups to follow, usually from KALDOR .
A DRACONIAN walks over to the table and sits on the Chrome and wicker chair .
sSONDAR Yes colonising too quickly .The first battle took place here between the draconian empire and the humans I had to come over , after listening to these humans filling you with misinformation.
KURT It was only later on when the RUTONS became a threat with their ability to kill a mimic other species.
SANDRA And a BIO-MORPHIC process can

gene splice any animal with RUTONS, creating many weird and wonderful hybrid creatures .
CELVIN With ARCADIANS ordering younger versions of their wives, The draconians insist on slowing us down.
SONDAR It's for your own good.
SANDRA The ruton ambassador crys that they are being exploited, and some are becoming DENTRASI, that can be eaten, and makes super microwave meals .
KENT Well I must go, it's been really enlightening times I hit the hay ,first time in thousands of years .Ready to go V36?
Kent gets up off the Chrome & wicker chair and follows v36 its pneumatic legs make a squelching slapping sound on the hardwood floor and steps down onto the dirt road .
V36 PYRAMID has four quarters with a dimension gate just outside the perimeter fence , for galactic travel and supplies .
They step up a metal ladder to the second floor and KENT uses his diamond key card to enter his apartment .
V36 You'll find the apartment fully stocked,with consumables by appointment of president Vanessa Bellamy. I have to recharge into my docking station and network.
V36 sits at his docking station and places its hand in the recharged slot before fixing a communications patch to his temple .
tTHe next day Kent dresses.In sports casual.Sweatpants and shirts.And walks over the Persian carpet.To join V36 near his docking station.
V36 You have an appointment with the jailhouse .I've been researching into the 21st century and I might help you with your report to the adjudicators..

And there's an expert coming from CANDEREL.You might be able to help you get back to your time and place.
They leave the apartment.And cross the road.
Kent flows v36 across the dirt road where he sees Sandra and Kelvin about to board an open topped Jeep with other workers and a KALDOR policeman .CALVIN grabs Kent by the arm and beckons him to an alleyway between a residency and a general store .
CALVIN If you really are a time traveler from the future we can help you .
KENT Much as I like this frontier town I'd like to get back home .
CALVIN Put yourself down for a work detail on the bulletin boards and join us volunteers in the market garden .
SANDRA That's to the west of the city of pyramid .
He leaves Kent and clamber into the Jeep next to Sandra and Kent walks over the dirt road .He sees CALVIN light a Hamlet cigar as the Jeep drives towards the perimeter gates of PYRAMID, which slides open for them to drive to the market garden .
KENT steps up onto a wooden terrace and along pine bannisters till he reaches louvre doors of the adjudicator building.
As he enters louvered partitions he spies ADJUDICATOR SLOAN standing below an open bared window taking tea from a tea urn atop a green bays fold up table with some ginger biscuits.
SLOAN I've got an interview room where you and v36 can make your report .
Sloan hands Kent a mug of tea and a ginger biscuit and then they all walk across a Persian rug passed open bad

cells into the interview room
V36 My research using the V-O-C network should give a detailed look of the time and place where you say you came from .
sSLOAN I'm sending your report to the high council on CANDEREL and I might have an expert coming from the high council a commander Will Madeira, to make the ripple believable
Later on Kent and v36 clamber into an open topped Jeep next to Kelvin and Sandra for the market garden .They drive through the main gate to top field where they start harvesting potatoes .
CELVIN This is our main crop which feeds PYRAMID .
KENT What about the workers in the protein incubator factory ?
SANDRA The high energy protein is shipped to all the other colonies throughout the entire galactic federation and the draconian empire .
In a hut by the side of the field a man is standing at a fold-up green baize table handing out small packets along with refreshments.
That's the man you've got to go and see if you need to get to any other colonies .
KENT On earth they'd call his AFRO-CARABEAN .
SANDRA Here we call him a TOOTING, and we're CLAPHAMS .
Kent walks through the potato field towards an equipment hut ,then round the side to where people are congregating near a tea urn on a fold up Green Baize table.
SANDRA This is BRIAN JOHNSON he might be able to help you.

BRIAN JOHNSONI might be able to get you off planet, But you'll have to do something for us.Late this evening after curfew.
KENT I don't want to rest my chances with the high council
BRIAN JOHNSON But you could be immensely valuable to us someone without registration.We'll give you a false ID and send you to CANDEREL where there are people who can operate a time gate.
CHARLY They can use the dimension gate of the GUARDIANS OF- FOREVER to take you back to your home on earth.
BRIAN JOHNSON If you work for me and I'll use my influence to get you back to earth.
KENT Yes but earth will have changed in the 600 years since I've been away .
BRIAN JOHNSON One of our men will finish their tour of duty and want to go to Arcadia. You can take their place .
CELVIN All Movements are authorised with coded ID. It's a simple system and nobody checks.Unless a KALDOR ADJUDICATOR suspects criminal activity .
BRIAN JOHNSON First you'll have to meet me for a cover operation tonight, agreed ?
KENT Well I can't stay here. It could upset the timeline. Besides, this would be the greatest story since God talked to Moses .I'll be famous when I get back home .
BRIAN JOHNSON Then I'll see you at the side of PARKHILL'S SALOON this evening .
Kent has a cup of tea and then trudges back through the field and collects a bushel sized basket of potatoes, then follows v 36 to the open topped Jeep sliding the basket

along the cab and then jumps up after it to sit next to Sandra and Celvin .
V-O-C robot sets course for town, using magic eyes along the journey for minor course corrections, as other volunteers jump and join the other passengers .
The van drives itself from top field , and through a small forest then through the grasslands surrounding town and through security gates to park opposite the jailhouse .
KENT Not bad for a day's work though.That's only half.
V36 I'll take you to the day centre.
Kent follows v36 along the main road past a wash house and residency towards a single story building made out of breeze blocks with a felt roof.
They walk through a green baize door to an open plan day centre with a royal blue tiled carpet and through a gaming area shooting pool table hockey and nouveau backgammon to a social room with many residents of different ages.
KENT Mainly adults of working age.
V36 People don't want to retire here .
They walk through a partition , displaying a topological map of the surrounding area to the canteen and joined by others for a light meal.
KENT WHATS THIS.
ORVIL Potatoes-salad-protein and carbohydrate blocks created in the factory outside
PYRAMID .
From tannoy speakers mounted around the lime green vinyl walls GRAHAM STRINGER and TULLA REESE report news from around the galactic federation .
Suspected data theft of prefix codes for the dimension gates are has increased fears of military action
And the retirement age for for adults will be lowered

Kent spots Sandra and Kelvin and walks past the rapidly workers from the factory and sits in a chrome and wicker chair on the round table with the red check tablecloths and blue and pink napkins while accepting a lime juice called you from Sandra.
If you are going to leave me you'll have to make it soon SLP codes for increased security
I notice there's still a trading spectrox what does it do it heightens awareness and invigorates the mind and so bigger the body making it illegal but highly sought after fortunately many of the founding family members take who are high place within the company
You're about to pick up a consignment of spectrums dropped from higher altitude tell these for 36 I've gone home and not feeling well
Kent gets up to go to the washroom downs a fizzy drink and walks through a lime green oblong alcove and kicks open a security door, then walks to the perimeter fence till he gets to the back of PARKHILL'S SALOON then runs along the perimeter of the compound keeping low till he spies Brian Johnson and a young man with curly hair in spectacles opening a tear in the wire mesh enclosure while floodlights strobe across areas in regular patterns from six security huts above the high wire ..
BRIAN JOHNSON This is RAY DOYLE .
KENT I'll follow you .
JOHNSON Pulls away a large gap in the fence saying "go now"
Kent and Doyle run over the grassland avoiding the spotlight. The flood is purity flood lights to the cover of the trees , then DOYLE checks the rhythmic beating of the GPS tracker as they walk through the tree lined forest. They find themselves on the grass verge surrounding the

protein incubator factory with floodlights making slow arcs along the fence line.

DOYLE I've got a target lock on the package on the other side of that factory .

KENT Which means a supply ship has just passed sending out cargo out of the cargo bay parachuting down on blue pallets .

DOYLE Fortunately smugglers from Anderson major have bribed the chief stewards to use the waste disposal shoots with a homing beacon on it.

KENT And that's what's on the other side of the compound.

If we can make it to those sandstone boulders at the river inlet we might be able to make it to the other side without alerting the guards.

Kent follows Doyle running across the grasslands of avoiding flood lights to sandstone boulders neither river inlet, then through trees to where a package is waiting with a radio antenna.

KENT Ok nurse prepared to apply the skidaddle technique.

DOYLE What is that Kent?

KENT Well I've got the package of SPECTROX .

They run through the trees and jump over sandstone boulders near the River inlet and then run across the grasslands separating the town of pyramid from the factory, and crawl through the gap in the fence where Brian Johnson is waiting.

KENT MISSION ACCOMPLISHED .

BRIAN JOHNSON I'll see you at the Day centre tomorrow ,might have your ID so you can get back to earth.

Kent runs along the perimeter fence and then takes and then to the front of park hill saloon with v36 is waiting his pneumatic lakes making using slapping sounds on the on the tarmac.

KENT I just went to get some fresh air v 36.

V36 an investigators coming from KALDOR tomorrow and you've got an early appointment at the jailhouse.

KENT Until then it's back for toasted crumpets and and tea at your residency.

KENT follows v36 its pneumatic legs making a squelching slapping sound up the wide metal stairs to his apartment.

From tannoy speakers above the front entrance tula Reese and Graham stringer present up to the minute news throughout the galactic federation.

GRAHAM STRINGER And another news your taxes are going up.

TULLA REECE Global news has just found out that SCIENCE OFFICER VIR and ADJUDICATOR STEVENS where was murdered by terrorists hell bent on disrupting the stable piece we have achieved throughout the GALACTIC FEDERATION .

GRAHAM STRINGER VIR was killed near his apartment ,the body was discovered by a garden party in woods at the back of PROMETHIUS residency , on the shores of CANDEREL .

TULA REECE SPACE COMMAND belive prefix codes for the dimension gates have been stolen, and are asking citizens to be vigilant in spotting unregistered travelers infiltrating our society .

GRAHAM STRINGER If the space raiders get their hands on them it could be total war.

v36 Making METE and the town of PYRAMID a prime target.

V-36.Crosses a Persian rug and sits on a royal blue fabric sofa.Connecting his head to the docking station.

v36 I'll upload today's journal and get orders for tomorrow while recharging.

KENT I'll expect ADJUDICATOR SLOAN will be making contingency plans.

THE NEXT MORNING.....KENT leaves his breakfast table and follows v36 down metal stairs and over high street,v36 Numatic legs making a squelching slapping sound as they alight a wooden terrace on the other side and walk along oak bannisters to the louvered doors of the jailhouse . They step across a persian rug below a round pine table with red-check table cloth .

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN and RAVEN are playing backgammon while checking incoming reports and planning the day.

KENT What have you got planned for me today chief ?

RAVEN I've transmitted your request to the high council .

SLOAN Though news agencies are saying there maybe a lockdown and the last of the scheduled commercial transport will be tomorrow.

RAVEN So you might be stuck here.

V36 I've been giving Kent a potted history of the galactic federation.

KENT Yes and I've been blendering into the

flavor of the community, met some really nice people Kelvin said he wants me to tour of the factory.?

SLOAN The protein factory ?

RAVEN Walk this way.

Kent follows administrator Sloan out of the jailhouse and along oak bannisters then steps onto tarmac v36 pneumatic legs making a squelching slapping sound till they reach an electric car.

SLOAN gets into the driver's seat as Kent climbers in next to Sandra and Kelvin

SLOAN Hold tight everyone, just a short ride to the factory .

A magic eye at the gate reads a barcode on the sides of the vehicle and alters course and speed accordingly.

KELVIN We'll arrive ready to start start shift at the sweatshop?

SLOAN Quiet in the stalls .

KELVIN Complaining about my back ache .

SLOAN Good news ,a shipment of V-O-C are coming from KALDOR to replace whining and complaining workers when you finish your tour of duty.

KENT Oh great more humans on the scrap heap.

SLOAN now now young minds fresh ideas.You can go to treadmill.

SANDRA I've heard the treadmill isn't that where you have your last hurrah and then you get buried in a disused crater.

KELVIN A planet that's so inhospiceable your lungs explode as fast as you freeze to death .

SLOAN There's a pressurised Dome with luxury for the founding families and loyal citizens who've prove themselves.

The car stops in the car park and they clamber out and walk through a sliding door onto the production floor, across a green laminated concrete floor.

KENT follows SLOAN up a wide metal staircase onto a high walkway where he can see machines and conveyors across the horizon.

Far below he spies citizens in navy blue boiler suits and V-O-C robots in their familiar light green costume working harmony.

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN The carbohydrate and protein blocks are grown in a chamber below and then pushed up onto a conveyor that moves them into cutters.

From a steel walkway above the factory floor KENT sees

citizens and V-O-C robots packing either side of conveyor belts and then through magic eyes that activate label machines before they're loaded onto blue pallets by V-O-C robots .

KENT Yeah we have similar systems on earth

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN The blue pallets are then loaded onto articulated lorries, and then through dimension gate for other colonies throughout the galactic federation..

KENT Product eaten by thousands of Citizens across the Galaxy?

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN Top of the class young man, it's part of a Treaty with the League of non aligned Worlds and stops the Space Raiders getting their knickers in a twist. Latest from the high council says there might be a lockdown and commercial flights off-world are cancelled .

KENT You're saying I'm stuck here?

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN I might have to find you a permanent job. KENT Well I've always had green fingers so I might help with the Market Garden.

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN Help bring in potato crop?

KENT For the the day center.

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN You'll have to take a shift on the Conveyors down there .

he points across the horizon to a machine at the end of the conveyor. They walk down the wide metal steps onto the production floor as machinery compete with music and entertainment from tannoy speakers above the fire exits .

KENT If you to take me back I'll go and see your personal department and fix myself up with a job .

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN That's my wife I'll introduce you.

They come out a side entrance and clamber into SLOANS jeep. and he guns the engine, Maneuvres up out of the car park. They drive through the main gates of PYRAMID and park up opposite the Jailhouse.

ADJUDICATOR SLOAN if you go to the day centre I'll meet you with BARBERA our personal manager after lunch.

V36 stands in front of the car as KENT clambers out and joins him .

They walk up the road towards the single story day centre

made of breezeblocks with a green felt roof, V36 metal legs making a squelching slapping sound on the tarmac.